

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Non-elected claims 34-50 have been canceled by amendment herein.

The claims have been rejected based on the doctrine of "provisional obviousness-type double patenting" over Pending Application Serial No. 10/054,479. Applicants understand this to mean "provisionally rejected" for obviousness-type double patenting. A terminal disclaimer will be filed at the appropriate time, if necessary.

The claims have been rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by or obvious over Maeda (US Pat. -- 6,597,320). According to §102(e), a reference must have a filing date earlier than the filing date of the subject application. The subject application was filed March 13, 2001. Maeda's application was filed September 6, 2001, which is later than the filing date of the subject application. Therefore, the rejection is improper for the same reason that the previous rejection based on Maeda's publication was improper. Since the rejection is improper, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

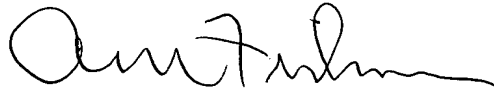
Appl. No. 09/804,848
Amdt. Dated January 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 22, 2004

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same
to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33422.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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